

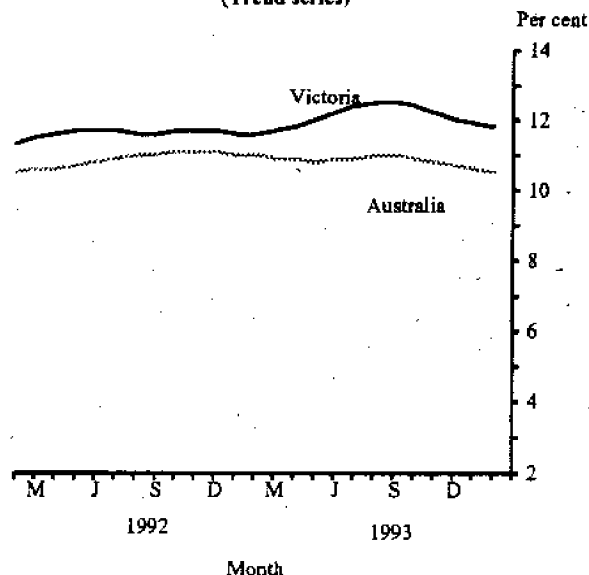
CATALOGUE NUMBER 1307.2

11 APRIL 1994

## ECONOMIC INDICATORS, VICTORIA, MARCH 1994

### MAIN FEATURES

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF THE CIVILIAN  
POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER  
(Trend series)**

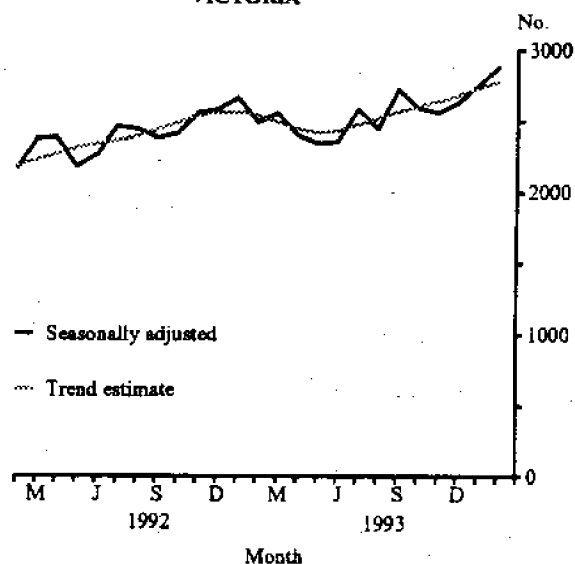


#### Unemployment rate

The trend estimate of the unemployment rate for Victoria decreased slightly to 11.8 per cent in February 1994 from 11.9 per cent in January 1994. This was the fifth consecutive monthly decrease since the peak of 12.5 per cent recorded in August and September 1993.

At the national level the trend estimate of the unemployment rate decreased to 10.5 per cent in February 1994 from 10.6 per cent in January 1994. This also was the fifth consecutive monthly decrease since September 1993.

**NUMBER OF NEW DWELLING UNITS APPROVED,  
VICTORIA**



#### New dwelling units approved

The trend estimate of the number of dwelling units approved in Victoria in February 1994 showed a 2 per cent increase over the figure recorded for January 1994 and a 10 per cent increase compared with the number of units approved in February 1993.

After twenty consecutive monthly increases (peaking in January 1993), the trend estimate decreased over the four months to May 1993 before increasing steadily since June 1993.

Readers are reminded that trend estimates are subject to revision as subsequent months data become available.

#### INQUIRIES

for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Tony Ward or Dinny Jaconis on Melbourne (03) 615 7000; or any ABS State office.

for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services Melbourne (03) 615 7000; or any ABS State office.

TABLE 1. VICTORIA IN RELATION TO OTHER STATES AND AUSTRALIA (a)

Indicator		Reference period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust. (b)	Victoria as a percentage of Australia
Employed persons	'000	Feb 94	2,600.5	1,926.4	1,396.0	631.9	777.7	195.8	7,752.1	24.9
*Unemployment rate										
- trend series	per cent	Feb 94	10.2	11.8	10.0	11.1	9.0	11.8	10.5	..
Average weekly total earnings										
- all employees (c)	\$	Nov 93	537.20	527.00	496.20	492.50	505.20	501.70	521.50	..
Consumer price index, all groups (c)	1989-90=100	Dec qr 93	108.8	110.8	110.2	112.8	108.5	111.6	110.0	..
*New dwelling units approved	no.	Feb 94	3,535	2,716	3,953	851	2,100	344	13,884	19.6
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Feb 94	606.5	645.1	456.3	108.2	218.4	32.7	2,136.0	30.2
Engineering construction										
- commenced, total	\$m	Sept 93	1,566.5	473.2	907.5	135.0	353.1	56.4	3,592.9	13.2
- yet to be done, total	\$m	Sept 93	1,827.0	885.8	1,176.2	165.2	549.7	111.8	4,809.5	18.4
Housing finance for owner occupation	\$m	Jan 94	1,027.4	737.6	645.9	245.9	460.2	59.0	3,276.1	22.5
Retail turnover - trend estimates	\$m	Feb 94	2,977.9	1,994.4	1,503.4	655.8	875.6	216.3	8,474.6	23.5
New motor vehicle registrations										
- seasonally adjusted	no.	Feb 94	18,040	11,449	9,417	3,507	5,370	1,122.0	50,487	23.5
Takings, licensed hotels, motels and guest houses with facilities	\$'000	Dec qr 93	243,561	110,502	203,370	38,096	57,593	18,661	709,542	15.6
Exports (excluding re-exports)	\$m	Jan 94	954.9	954.2	825.8	277.9	1,347.7	105.7	4,598.6	18.3
Imports	\$m	Jan 94	2,132.0	1,610.0	477.3	222.1	376.7	24.3	4,862.9	33.1
*Industrial disputes (12 months ended Dec 93)										
- working days lost per '000 employees	no.	Dec 93	89	169	134	53	51	29	108	..
Electricity production	million kWh	Jan 94	4,710	n.p.	2,753	906.0	1,364	n.p.	13,171	n.a.
*Actual private new capital expenditure										
- seasonally adjusted	\$m	Sept qr 93	1,952	1,594	916	475	1,242	114	6,495	24.5

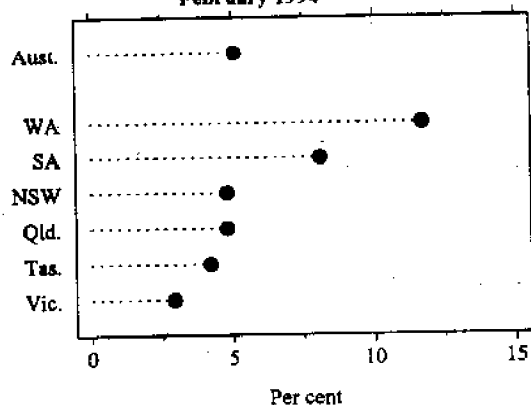
## CHANGE OVER SAME PERIOD PREVIOUS YEAR (PER CENT)

*Employed persons	'000	Feb 94	3.2	1.4	4.2	-0.4	5.8	3.6	2.8	..
Unemployment rate										
- trend series	per cent	Feb 94	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Average weekly total earnings										
- all employees (c)	\$	Nov 93	1.4	4.4	4.8	4.8	3.0	5.7	3.4	..
Consumer price index, all groups (c)	1989-90=100	Dec qr 93	1.3	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.3	3.3	1.9	..
New dwelling units approved	no.	Feb 94	-10.0	16.3	15.7	-21.3	27.7	60.0	6.4	..
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Feb 94	-2.9	93.1	21.8	-21.5	-17.0	6.2	17.0	..
Engineering construction										
- commenced, total	\$m	Sept 93	-1.2	-12.2	31.6	-15.9	15.5	14.6	5.5	..
- yet to be done, total	\$m	Sept 93	-7.1	2.6	3.9	-1.0	30.2	-37.2	-0.4	..
Housing finance for owner occupation	\$m	Jan 94	32.2	35.1	23.4	22.6	53.7	23.4	31.6	..
*Retail turnover - trend estimates	\$m	Feb 94	4.8	2.9	4.8	8.1	11.7	4.2	5.1	..
New motor vehicle registrations										
- seasonally adjusted	no.	Feb 94	14.0	15.6	14.2	20.1	15.9	23.0	15.2	..
Takings, licensed hotels, motels and guest houses with facilities	\$'000	Dec qr 93	9.4	3.8	15.2	5.6	10.8	9.4	10.0	..
Exports (excluding re-exports)	\$m	Jan 94	3.3	9.4	-9.9	12.8	2.4	-25.2	1.3	..
Imports	\$m	Jan 94	15.1	20.5	12.5	-18.1	6.4	-5.5	13.5	..
Industrial disputes (12 months ended Dec 93)										
- working days lost per '000 employees	no.	Dec 93	4.7	-54.2	94.2	112.0	-47.4	-89.8	-31.6	..
Electricity production	million kWh	Jan 94	-6.0	n.a.	7.7	22.8	3.6	n.a.	0.9	..
Actual private new capital expenditure										
- seasonally adjusted	\$m	Sept qr 93	-8.1	25.5	-4.0	27.3	16.9	7.5	6.9	..

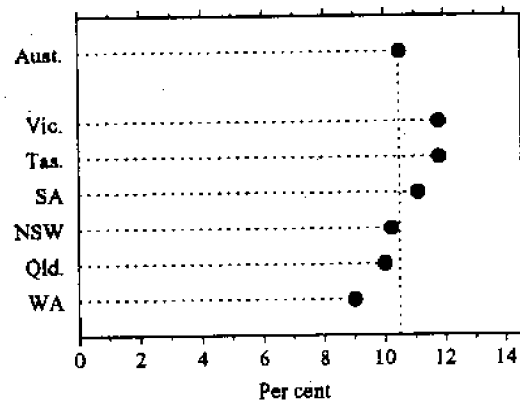
(a) All figures are original unless otherwise stated. (b) The Australian total includes figures for NT and the ACT (c) Available only for the middle month of the quarter. \* An asterisk before a statistical series denotes that a corresponding graph is included in the relevant section.

## VICTORIA IN RELATION TO OTHER STATES AND AUSTRALIA

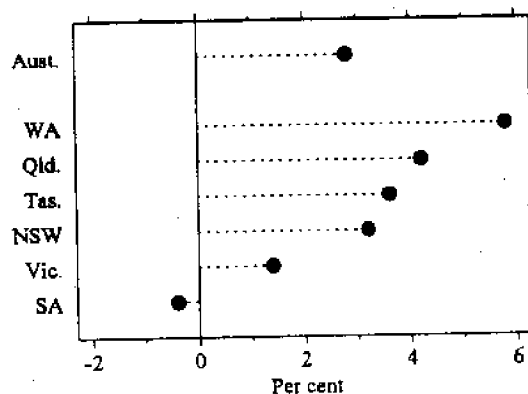
**RETAIL TURNOVER**  
Trend estimates  
Change over same period previous year  
February 1994



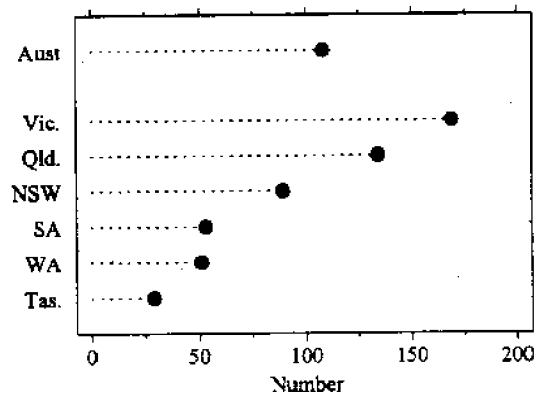
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**  
Trend series  
February 1994



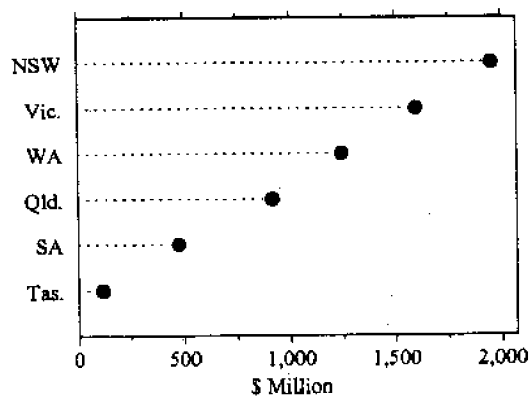
**EMPLOYED PERSONS**  
Change over same period previous year  
February 1994



**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES**  
Working days lost per '000 employees  
For the twelve months ended December 1993



**PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**  
Seasonally adjusted  
September quarter 1993



**NEW DWELLING UNITS APPROVED**  
February 1994

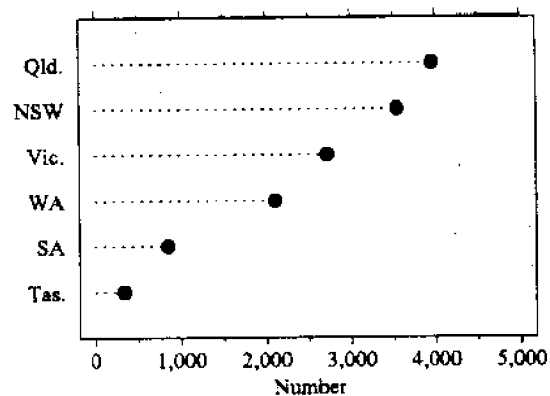


TABLE 2. ECONOMIC INDICATORS, VICTORIA AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator		Reference period	Victoria				Australia		Victoria as a % of Australia	Source index (a)
			Figures		% Change		Figures	% Change		
			Latest period	Preceding period	Over preceding period	Over same period previous year				
<b>Population -</b>										
Estimated resident population	'000	Jun 93	4,462.1	4,461.4	0.0	0.3	17,661.5	0.2	25.3	1
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	'000	Feb 94	3,519.4	3,547.2	-0.8	-0.3	13,874.4	0.1	25.4	2
<b>Labour force -</b>										
Labour force										
- original series	'000	Feb 94	2,214.8	2,200.8	0.6	0.6	8,759.0	1.2	25.3	2
- seasonally adjusted	'000	Feb 94	2,193.1	2,191.3	0.1	1.6	8,733.6	0.1	25.1	2
- trend estimate	'000	Feb 94	2,194.6	2,199.6	-0.2	0.7	8,739.3	0.1	25.1	2
Participation rate- seasonally adjusted	per cent	Feb 94	62.3	62.3	..	..	62.9	..	..	2
<b>*Unemployment rate</b>										
- original series	per cent	Feb 94	13.0	12.5	..	..	11.5	..	..	2
- seasonally adjusted	per cent	Feb 94	11.8	11.8	..	..	10.5	..	..	2
- trend estimate	per cent	Feb 94	11.8	11.9	..	..	10.5	..	..	2
<b>Employed persons by industry (e)</b>										
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, etc (b)	'000	Nov qr 93	103.6	92.6	11.9	8.1	518.2	2.9	20.0	13, 14
Manufacturing	'000	Nov qr 93	346.6	340.1	1.9	-4.3	1122.1	3.4	30.9	13, 14
Construction	'000	Nov qr 93	118.8	112.1	6.0	0.3	558.7	-0.1	21.3	13, 14
Wholesale and retail	'000	Nov qr 93	431.6	430.8	0.2	3.4	1644.5	2.7	26.2	13, 14
Transport and storage	'000	Nov qr 93	86.3	78.9	9.4	2.0	373.1	1.4	23.1	13, 14
Finance, property and business services	'000	Nov qr 93	227.6	226.5	0.5	0.4	882.0	2.8	25.8	13, 14
Community services (c)	'000	Nov qr 93	357.7	352.2	1.6	-0.9	1501.6	0.9	23.8	13, 14
Recreational, personal and other services	'000	Nov qr 93	145.1	138.1	5.1	9.1	640.0	4.0	22.7	13, 14
Other industries (d)	'000	Nov qr 93	150.3	163.0	-7.8	-2.3	592.9	-15.2	25.3	13, 14
Total all industries	'000	Nov qr 93	1,967.6	1,930.9	1.9	0.7	7,833.1	1.9	25.1	13, 14
Job vacancies (e) - original series	'000	Feb 94	11.3	9.9	14.1	54.8	45.9	20.2	24.6	3
<b>Overtime (e)</b>										
Average weekly hours per employee	hours	Feb 94	1.31	1.46	-10.3	15.9	1.22	-6.2	..	3
Employees working overtime	per cent	Feb 94	17.23	17.45	-1.3	11.4	16.80	-2.1	..	3
<b>Average weekly employee earnings (e)</b>										
Full-time adult- total	\$	Nov 93	638.20	633.40	0.8	2.8	642.50	1.0	..	4
All employees - total	\$	Nov 93	527.00	521.10	1.1	4.4	521.50	0.2	..	4
<b>Award rates of pay</b>										
Full-time adult employees	June 85=100	Jan 94	141.8	141.8	0.0	0.6	140.7	0.1	..	5
<b>Industrial disputes (12 months ended Dec 93)</b>										
Working days lost per '000 employees	no.	Dec 94	169	182	-7.1	-54.2	108	-3.6	..	6
<b>*Consumer price index (e)</b>										
All groups	1989-90=100	Dec qr 93	110.8	110.5	0.3	2.4	110.0	0.2	..	7
<b>*Retail trade establishments</b>										
Value of turnover										
- original series	\$m	Feb 94	1,778.0	1,879.4	-5.4	4.7	7,488.9	-6.6	23.7	8
- trend estimate	\$m	Feb 94	1,994.4	1,993.6	0.0	2.9	8,474.6	0.4	23.5	8
- seasonally adjusted (1989-90 prices)	\$m	Dec qr 93	5,372.9	5,397.6	-0.5	2.0	22,503.0	1.9	23.9	8
<b>*Overseas trade -</b>										
Imports	\$m	Jan 94	1,610.0	1,633.3	-1.4	20.5	4,862.9	-11.2	33.1	9
Exports ( exclude re-exports )	\$m	Jan 94	954.2	1070.1	-10.8	9.4	4,598.6	-12.1	20.7	10
<b>Tourism -</b>										
Caravan parks - takings	\$'000	Dec qr 93	19,096	15,301	24.8	5.1	108,504	4.0	17.6	23
Licensed hotels, motels and guest houses with facilities										
- Takings	\$'000	Dec qr 93	110,502	100,636	9.8	3.8	709,542	5.6	15.6	23
- Room occupancy rate	per cent	Dec qr 93	47.6	43.2	..	..	55.5	..	..	23

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2. ECONOMIC INDICATORS, VICTORIA AND AUSTRALIA - (continued)

Indicator		Reference period	Victoria				Australia		Victoria as a % of Australia	Source index (a)
			Figures		% Change		Latest period	% Change		
			Latest period	Preceding period	Over preceding period	Over same period previous year				
<b>*New motor vehicle registrations -</b>										
New motor vehicle registrations										
- original series	no.	Feb 94	10,700	8,173	30.9	15.9	45,946	25.3	23.3	11
- seasonally adjusted	no.	Feb 94	11,449	11,479	-0.3	15.6	50,487	3.5	22.7	11
- trend estimate	no.	Feb 94	11,430	11,271	1.4	11.4	49,009	1.4	23.3	11
Cars and station wagons										
- original series	no.	Feb 94	9,291	7,148	30.0	15.9	38,870	25.5	23.9	11, 12
- seasonally adjusted	no.	Feb 94	9,921	10,026	-1.0	15.5	42,748	3.9	23.2	11, 12
Other motor vehicles ( excludes motor cycles )										
- original series	no.	Feb 94	1,409	1,025	37.5	16.0	7,076	24.2	19.9	11, 12
- seasonally adjusted	no.	Feb 94	1,528	1,453	5.2	15.8	7,739	1.8	19.7	11, 12
<b>Manufacturing -</b>										
Actual private new capital expenditure										
- original series	\$m	Sept qr 93	618	780	-20.8	43.7	1,788	-12.7	34.6	15, 16
Production -										
Whole milk	million litres	Dec 93	587	629	-6.7	9.5	881	-5.5	66.6	17, 18
Butter	tonnes	Sept 93	11,694	5,110	128.8	11.1	13,823	102.6	84.6	19
Cheese (incl. cheddar and non-cheddar)	tonnes	Sept 93	13,710	6,221	120.4	-1.0	22,233	77.7	61.7	19
Yarns										
- Cotton	tonnes	Jan 94	608	1,333	-54.4	33.0	1,583	-31.4	38.4	17, 18
- Woollen	tonnes	Jan 94	931	1,165	-20.1	41.5	1,113	-21.7	83.6	17, 18
Woven fabric										
- Cotton	'000 sq m	Jan 94	577	1,634	-64.7	-18.7	1,695	-55.1	34.0	17, 18
- Woollen (includes worsted wool)	'000 sq m	Jan 94	226	376	-39.9	-19.6	369	-32.4	61.2	17, 18
- Man-made fibres	'000 sq m	Jan 94	3,195	5,934	-46.2	9.4	9,891	-27.8	32.3	17, 18
Textile floor coverings	'000 sq m	Jan 94	2,146	2,936	-26.9	36.3	2,524	-26.4	85.0	17, 18
Clay bricks	million	Jan 94	11	21	-47.6	0.0	110	-23.6	10.0	17, 18
Ready mixed concrete	'000 cu m	Nov 93	245	246	-0.4	6.5	1,297	0.5	18.9	20
Paints and other surface coatings										
- Architectural and decorative paints	'000 litres	Aug 93	1,409	1,071	31.6	-3.1	8,235	-6.9	17.1	21
Electricity - production	million kWh	Jan 94	n.p.	3,224	n.a	n.a	13,171	-2.1	n.a.	22
Gas - available for issue through mains	million Mj	Jan 94	8,456	12,236	-30.9	-12.8	38,251	-12.5	22.1	22
<b>*Actual private new capital expenditure -</b>										
Building and structures - original series										
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	Sept qr 93	396	313	26.5	-0.3	1,796	-0.7	22.0	15
- original series	\$m	Sept qr 93	1,218	1,210	0.7	37.0	4,599	-2.7	26.5	15
Total new capital expenditure										
- original series	\$m	Sept qr 93	1,614	1,522	6.0	25.4	6,368	-2.6	25.3	15
- seasonally adjusted	\$m	Sept qr 93	1,594	1,468	8.6	25.5	6,495	3.5	24.5	15
<b>*Housing finance for owner occupation -</b>										
Secured loans to individuals by type of lender										
All Banks										
- number of dwelling units financed	no.	Jan 94	8,985	13,443	-33.2	49.4	35,422	-24.9	25.4	24
- value of loans secured	\$m	Jan 94	698.6	937.9	-25.5	36.9	3,026.7	-21.4	23.1	24
Total number of dwelling units financed	no.	Jan 94	9,547	14,110	-32.3	46.4	38,450	-25.5	24.8	24
Total value of loans secured (f)	\$m	Jan 94	737.6	990.3	-25.5	35.1	3,276.1	-22.3	22.5	24
Loan purpose (g)										
- Established dwellings	\$m	Jan 94	560.1	787.0	-28.8	33.1	2,397.0	-23.3	23.4	24
- Construction of dwellings	\$m	Jan 94	116.3	150.6	-22.8	27.8	547.1	-22.7	21.3	24
- Newly erected dwellings	\$m	Jan 94	27.7	35.6	-22.2	50.5	161.3	-20.3	17.2	24
<b>Finance -</b>										
Personal finance commitments - total	\$m	Jan 94	433.7	472.5	-8.2	47.3	2,100.1	-3.3	20.7	30
Commercial finance commitments - total	\$m	Jan 94	1,653.9	2,007.7	-17.6	22.5	6,085.0	-27.2	27.2	31
Lease finance commitments - total	\$m	Jan 94	68.8	126.9	-45.8	20.3	321.0	-41.9	21.4	32

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2. ECONOMIC INDICATORS, VICTORIA AND AUSTRALIA - (continued)

Indicator	Reference period	Victoria					Australia		Victoria as a % of Australia	Source index (a)
		Figures		% Change			Figures	% Change		
		Latest period	Preceding period	Over same period		Latest period	Over preceding period			
				Over preceding period	previous year					
<b>Building Approvals -</b>										
*New residential dwelling units										
- original series	no.	Feb 94	2,716	2,183	24.4	16.3	13,884	8.7	19.6	25, 26
- seasonally adjusted	no.	Feb 94	2,886	2,754	4.8	16.0	15,047	-6.9	19.2	25, 26
- trend estimate	no.	Feb 94	2,785	2,732	1.9	9.6	15,506	0.8	18.0	25, 26
Value of non-residential buildings										
- original series	\$m	Feb 94	363.4	65.3	456.5	297.2	781.0	38.0	46.5	26.0
Value of all buildings (f)										
- original series	\$m	Feb 94	645.1	304.9	111.6	93.1	2136.0	18.4	30.2	26.0
<b>Building commencements -</b>										
New residential dwelling units, monthly	no.	Jan 94	2185.0	2,498	-12.5	5.8	n.a.	n.a.	..	27.0
New residential dwelling units, quarterly	no.	Sept qr 93	7488.0	7,387	1.4	10.8	45801.0	7.5	16.3	28.0
<b>Building Activity -</b>										
Value of total building activity										
- Commenced	\$m	Sept qr 93	1,270.3	1,117.4	13.7	18.7	6,255.3	3.0	20.3	28
- Done	\$m	Sept qr 93	1,286.5	1,298.9	-1.0	4.1	6,447.2	6.6	20.0	28
- Yet to be done	\$m	Sept qr 93	1,273.7	1,234.6	3.2	-17.7	7,950.4	-2.6	16.0	28
<b>Engineering construction -</b>										
Value of work by private sector										
- Commenced	\$m	Sept qr 93	203.2	313.2	-35.1	-21.7	1,488.8	-1.1	13.6	29
- Done	\$m	Sept qr 93	281.1	305.1	-7.9	60.4	1,672.0	0.6	16.8	29
- Yet to be done	\$m	Sept qr 93	581.6	678.0	-14.2	4.2	2,512.8	-1.6	23.1	29
Value of work by public sector										
- Commenced	\$m	Sept qr 93	270.1	329.7	-18.1	-3.3	2,104.2	60.1	12.8	29
- Done	\$m	Sept qr 93	198.6	339.5	-41.5	-18.4	1,170.9	-36.8	17.0	29
- Yet to be done	\$m	Sept qr 93	304.3	238.6	27.5	-0.3	2,296.6	53.6	13.3	29

(a) For more information on these series, refer to the publications listed in the source index below. (b) Includes hunting and mining. (c) Comprises health, education, libraries, etc., welfare and religious institutions, and other community groups. (d) Comprises electricity, gas and water, communications, public administration and defence. (e) Available only for the middle month of the quarter. (f) Includes, alterations and additions to residential buildings. (g) Excludes, alterations and additions to residential buildings.

\* An asterisk before a statistical series denotes that a corresponding graph is included in the relevant section.

## SOURCE INDEX

1. Australian Demographic Statistics, (3101.0) \$12.20
2. The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary, (6202.0) \$10.70
3. Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, (6354.0) \$12.70
4. Average Weekly Earnings, States & Australia, (6302.0) \$12.70
5. Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia, (6312.0) \$12.70
6. Industrial Disputes, Australia, (6321.0) \$10.70
7. Consumer Price Index, (6401.0) \$11.70
8. Retail Trade Australia, (8501.0) \$10.70
9. Imports, Australia, Monthly Summary Tables, (5433.0) \$9.70
10. Exports, Australia, Monthly Summary Tables, (5432.0) \$9.70
11. Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia, (9303.0) \$10.70
12. Motor Vehicle Registrations, Victoria, (9303.2) \$10.70
13. The Labour Force, Victoria, (6202.2) \$16.30
14. The Labour Force, Australia, (6203.0) \$16.30
15. State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure, (5646.0) \$10.70
16. Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, (5626.0) \$10.70
17. Monthly Summary of Statistics, Victoria, (1303.2) \$10.70
18. Monthly Summary of Statistics, Australia, (1304.0) \$20.40
19. Prod. of Food, Drink and Tobacco, Australia, (8359.0) \$10.70
20. Prod. of Building Materials & Fittings, Australia, (8361.0) \$9.00
21. Prod. of Chemicals & By-products, Australia, (8362.0) \$9.00
22. Prod. of Energy Products, Australia, (8368.0) \$7.00
23. Tourist Accommodation, Australia, (8635.0) \$20.00
24. Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, (5609.0) \$10.70
25. Building Approvals, Victoria, (8731.2) \$10.70
26. Building Approvals, Australia, (8731.0) \$13.30
27. Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Victoria, (8741.2) \$10.70
28. Building Activity, Australia, (8752.0) \$14.30
29. Engineering Construction, Australia, (8762.0) \$10.70
30. Personal Finance, Australia, (5642.0 Tables 1E and 3E PC-Ausstats)
31. Commercial Finance, Australia, (5643.0 Tables 1E and 3E PC-Ausstats)
32. Lease Finance, Australia, (5644.0 Tables 1E and 3E PC-Ausstats)

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### Symbols and other usages

n.a.	not available
n.y.a.	not yet available
p	preliminary - figure or series subject to revision
r	figure or series revised since previous issue
..	not applicable
-	nil or rounded to zero
—	break in continuity of series (where a line is drawn between two consecutive figures in the same column, or alongside two or more figures in consecutive columns).

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

**STUART JACKSON**  
*Deputy Commonwealth Statistician*

